

Celebrating Collaboration

Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

You can get involved in the HSCB by attending a monthly meeting or by joining a workgroup!

Where can YOU make a difference?

- Transportation
- Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship
- Substance Abuse · Homelessness
- Healthy Youth · Hunger
- Mental Health Awareness
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults · Young Children
- Community Data

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HSCB

Amy Johnston,
Collaborative Planner
ajohnston@cmhliv.org



What's New in Livingston County? TCYS Virtual Life Skills!

"Challenges are what makes life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."
-Joshua J. Marine

When the staff from The Connection Youth Services (TCYS) found out that they were unable to hold in-person Life Skills groups at TCYS' Drop-In Center due to Governor Whitmer's Stay Home, Stay Safe order, they quickly sprang into action and developed a weekly Virtual Life Skills program for local youth! Assisting youth in developing essential life skills has been a long time aspect of TCYS' program model.

Throughout the years, hundreds of youth have benefited from the instructional life skills group and went on to utilize many of the skills they developed in their daily lives. A number of youth look forward to attending the group on a regular basis. By implementing a Virtual Life Skills group youth are able to stay connected and continue to develop skills to assist them in transitioning into adulthood. The group is facilitated by TCYS case managers and community volunteers. Groups focus on topics such as communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.

The Connection Youth Services' Life Skills group is free and open to youth between the ages of 16 to 20 years old. The group is held on Wednesday's from 5PM to 6PM. Contact 866-440-7233 for further information.



Stories of Hope

We've all had to make significant adjustments since COVID-19 changed the way we live our lives. But even during this challenging time, Livingston County CMH has had some very positive outcomes coordinating with local agencies to assist those we serve.

Recently, Love INC and the Livingston County Severe Weather Network partnered with Livingston County CMH to assist an individual with housing needs. The individual has struggled with housing for several months, lived transiently in a few locations, and eventually became homeless.

Thanks to the collaboration between these agencies the individual was able to obtain assistance with barriers that prevented them from obtaining housing. Here are a few words from the individual: "I was staying in the homeless shelter, I was fixing to be on the street. The homeless shelter gave me a place to stay and gave me a meal every day and I'm really grateful for that. But now that I have my own place I sleep better. I feel much better. I actually enjoy being by myself whereas before I was edgy and didn't want to be by myself. The peace, freedom, the ability to be self-supporting makes me feel proud. I'm very happy here. I plan on being here for many years." Love INC went a step further and helped them to get a bed frame, box spring, a mattress. This is one of several stories of local agencies teaming up to help people meet their needs.

Robert Dickinson
Community Mental Health

Collaboration Works!

The 2020 Census Has Been Extended!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Census has been extended, giving our community more valuable time to respond. Livingston County's current response rate is 75.2%, and we beat our 2010 Census response of 73.5% back on May 8th! Even though our county is doing a great job, there are still important residents who need to be counted. Please encourage those you serve to take 10 minutes to fill out the 9 questions on their Census. They can fill the form out online at www.my2020census.gov or by phone at 844-330-2020. The Census is easy, fast, and all of the responses are protected by law.

Livingston County's Facebook and Twitter accounts constantly post information about the Census, so feel free to share! **We have to work together to make sure all our neighbors are counted.**



What is a Community Liaison?

Livingston County Catholic Charities (LCCC) has recently changed the name of their long-standing Resource Advocacy program to Community Liaison to better match the work of the program.

Community Liaison (CL) will still offer the same assistance to ALL county seniors regardless of race, religion, gender, disability or financial ability. Let us share a story to highlight the extensive and individualized work our CL's do that greatly enhance a senior's circumstances - recently, one of LCCC's CL's assisted a senior with healthcare coverage costs over their current monthly budget. The CL assisted with applications resulting in: elimination of Medicare part B premiums - \$1,626/year plus advocated for two months retro coverage to recoup additional premiums- \$289; Food support- over \$100/month; Extra Help application approval lowering the cost of prescription drug coverage - on average \$4,900/year.

As a Medicare/Medicaid Counselor, LCCC's CL provided the senior with plan comparisons of Medicare coverage options, explanation of benefits and analysis of cost of each option for budgeting so the Senior could make an informed decision. After the Senior chose to continue with Original Medicare, the CL connected the Senior for application to the Medigap Subsidy Program to reduce the Supplemental coverage monthly premium saving \$672/year. The CL assisted with enrollment into the Senior's choice of a different Medicare Drug Plan at additional savings \$355 for the rest of 2020.



Through all of these activities, the senior's limited income now is manageable and allows the senior to live a bit more comfortably.

LCCC's Community Liaisons hold office hours Mon - Fri and will meet seniors at local senior centers, libraries and even conduct home visits for home bound seniors. To make an appointment, call Beth or Melodie at 517-545-5944.

Livingston County Catholic Charities is a local non-profit human services organization that serves all of Livingston County. Driven by Faith. Here for ALL.



ZOOMING RIGHT ALONG...

All of the workgroups of the HSCB, as well as the full HSCB, are continuing to meet via zoom. If you are interesting in attending any meeting, please reach out to Amy Johnston at ajohnston@cmhliv.org for the date, time and zoom link. All are welcome to attend and participate!

The HSCB website is a great resource. Check out: www.livgov.com/hscb to see Fact Sheets, the Resource Box and many COVID-19 related information and resource documents.

LACASA PLANS FILM EVENT & PANEL DISCUSSION

LACASA Center is hosting a sexual assault awareness event and panel discussion at the Historic Howell Theater on Thursday, June 25, at 3 p.m. (A virtual Zoom event will be held instead if COVID-19 restrictions prevent community gatherings.)

"The Bystander Moment," a film produced by gender violence prevention advocate Jackson Katz, explores how our culture perpetuates violent crimes, specifically violent crimes against women. In this documentary, Katz demonstrates how empowered bystanders can make a positive difference in our community and culture.

A panel discussion follows the film. Prominent local activists and leaders involved in the criminal justice system and the Mentors in Violence Prevention program will participate on the panel and answer audience questions.

An awards ceremony will be held at the end of the event to recognize community advocates who work to hold perpetrators accountable and help eradicate violent crimes. Originally scheduled for April, the event commemorates both National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Crime Victim's Rights Week. It is hosted by LACASA's Community Education Department.

This free event is open to the public and community participation during the panel discussion is encouraged. For event updates, follow LACASA - Livingston County on Facebook or visit lacasacenter.org.

LACASA Center is an independent, locally-based nonprofit that helps victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. It is one of just a few organizations in the nation that provides comprehensive, wrap-around services for all abuse victims under one roof. The agency also spearheads community education and awareness programs aimed at preventing interpersonal violence.

#MiSummerInternship!

Michigan Works! Southeast is happy to report we have remained "open" and successfully serving customers virtually by phone, video conferencing, online workshops for job seekers and are looking forward to launching a new summer youth program, #MiSummerInternship!

MiSummerInternship was in the planning stages before COVID-19, and the need for it has not changed- just the way we will implement it will. This is an employment and mentorship program that will focus on building solid business and community partnerships to create work experiences for young adults. We will match young adults with interested employers and work together to mentor and connect the youth to resources for building professional networks, exploring career opportunities, and developing critical job and leadership skills. Michigan Works! Southeast, creating connections to a better future!

Dawn Awrey, Manager

Michigan Works! Southeast

Direct Line: 517-552-2109 Front Desk: 517-546-7450

Cell: 517-607-9388 TTY: 711

What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members who work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county.

To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Amy Johnston at ajohnston@cmhliv.org.



*Ensuring a system
of support for
members of our
community*

Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

622 E. Grand River Ave
Howell, Michigan 48843

Phone: 517.586.2039

Fax: 517.552.2526

E-mail: ajohnston@cmhliv.org